

AMERICAN FARMER.

RURAL ECONOMY, INTERNAL IMPROVEMENTS, PRICE CURRENT.

"*O fortunatos nimium sua si bona norint*
"Agricolas." VINE.

VOL. III.

BALTIMORE, FRIDAY, JANUARY 18, 1822.

NUM. 43.

AGRICULTURE.

MR. PARKER'S COMMUNICATION,

To the Board of Managers of the New York Agricultural Society.

GENTLEMEN—The polite and flattering attention you were pleased to pay to my small exhibition of vegetables on the 29th May, was peculiarly gratifying: and in compliance with a request of your Honorable Board in a resolve passed that day, that I would furnish the Board with an account of my method of cultivation, of the quantity and kind of manure used, and any other information on the subject I might think useful to the Society, I have subjoined an account of my manner of cultivation, and of several experiments I have tried, the result of most of which has fully answered my expectation.

With regard to manure, hog dung is, undoubtedly, the best; I would next prefer a compost, the largest portion consisting of cow dung.

For the ordinary purposes of gardening, manure should always be provided the year before you wish to use it. Too much pains cannot be taken in the preservation of manure. It should be deposited in heaps, the larger the better. Care should be taken, if horse-dung, that you do not create too high a degree of fermentation; if you do, the strength will be greatly lessened, much of the nutritious part becoming so volatile as to pass off in the atmosphere.

To prevent this, a portion of cow dung, or loam should be mixed with it. The manure should have a coat of loam thrown upon it, and should be mixed or stirred twice, at least, before winter. Gardeners and farmers, in particular, sustain a greater loss than they imagine, by throwing their manure upon their lands, either into small heaps, or by spreading it and suffering it so to remain uncovered for several days.

If you expose cow-dung to the sun, it will soon become light and indissoluble as cork. That quality which enlivens and supports vegetation will be lost: and, when once lost, can never be restored.—Hence the necessity of economy in preserving manure; and there is not a single point relating to agriculture, wherein the farmer, in my opinion is less economical.

In regard to the preparation of the ground I would much prefer having it ploughed, or dug, in the fall season, and I would have it left in ridges, as much as possible. If land be left with an uneven surface, the atmosphere and the frost soften the soil and produce an effect peculiarly advantageous to vegetation.

I consider the harrow and the rake as deadly enemies to a light soil, where the ground is liable to be baked (as it is usually called) or crusted. Many people from a desire of having their gardens appear smooth and handsome, will rake the soil till it becomes as fine as flour. The first rain will smooth and consolidate the surface, and in six hours of sunshine a hard crust is formed, which in the spring, while the sun's rays fall very obliquely, throws off their warmth, and the ground beneath the crust is but little warmer at mid-day than at night. This effect is most sensibly felt early in the season; and, decreases as the season advances, till midsummer, when the cause ceases to operate. This crust not only checks the growth of vegetables by keeping the ground cold, but it cripples and deforms the tender plants, and many it entirely destroys.

Whereas, an uneven surface is frequently changed and kept soft by the operation of the winds, the dews and the rains upon it. The small protuberances of earth are constantly crumbling and opening the way for the plants to shoot up: besides, as the rays of the sun warm only by being obstructed we may reasonably conclude

that a rough surface, where every lump of earth obstructs a ray, and which is porous, inviting the warmth, rather than repelling it, will be most congenial to the growth of early vegetables. An unevenness, that would deform the face of a garden, is not necessary. That which is formed by chopping in the seed with the corner of a hoe is all that is requisite. Experience has convinced me that the reasoning I have adopted is correct.

For some crops I would mix my manure with the soil in autumn, but for others I would not. As I intend to treat on my manner of raising each kind of vegetable separately, you will find my manner of preparing the ground for the several kinds under their respective heads.

To have good seed is an important point in gardening. By sowing that which is bad, the cultivator not only loses his labour, and the price of his seed, but frequently the opportunity of raising a crop.

To prevent disappointment and loss, care should be taken to select the most healthy plants for seed; and in gathering it, equal care should be taken to gather that only, which is of full size, rejecting all that grows on the inferior branches.

Seeds on the same plant are not always ripe at the same time, as the beet, carrot, parsnip, &c. &c.—There will frequently be a difference of weeks, yet people generally gather the whole at the same time. If, after the first, or centre branches are ripe, the weather be moist, the grain swells, and sometimes mildews. It afterwards shrinks, and if exposed to frequent changes in the weather, will become unhealthy, if not ruined. To remedy this evil, I would recommend to cut the centre stalks as soon as they come to maturity, the second best next, and so on. In this manner, the seed will be all fresh and good, and will all grow.

There has not been a solitary instance wherein seed of my own raising has failed.

As the importance of having good seed is great, I would submit to the consideration of the Board the propriety of attempting to effect an improvement in garden seeds.

SALAD.

I sow salad about the first of September, but as the seasons are very various, lest my first sowing should be too large, I sow at two or three different times.—After manuring my ground abundantly, where I wish my salad to grow the succeeding spring, from the 1st to the 15th of October (sometimes later) I transplant my best roots, rejecting those that will not head, and those that spring from the seeds of the inferior branches. The first are known by a peculiar form and complexion of the leaf, and the latter by their diminutive size. Without this precaution, one part of my garden would be filled with worthless plants, and another with those as various in size as the trees of a forest. But by adhering strictly to the method I have pointed out, plants will be perfectly uniform, and of the first quality.

At the commencement of winter, when the earth begins to freeze, I cover my salad. Care must be taken in the manner of covering them, or they will be destroyed by the means used for their preservation. They must not be too much confined, viz. pressed too closely by the covering, if they are, being full of juice, they will often rot. Unless I use boards, I make my covering of straw, that which absorbs least moisture, keeps them driest, and is of course best.

The main object in covering vegetables, is, to secure them from the wind and sun. They may be benefitted by keeping them perfectly dry, but the rain will not destroy lettuce, if otherwise protected. The sun is very destructive to plants, when frozen, unless of a hardy kind. Long stable manure makes a good

covering if not permitted to ferment, till used. The plants must not be uncovered too soon, in the spring. I formerly and frequently lost many by exposing them too early. The first warm days in spring, are often succeeded by severe cold, which is fatal to plants deprived of their covering. After a long confinement they are feeble, and cannot bear too sudden a transition. Let the covers remain till the weather be temperate; and then, by removing them gradually, the plants will regain their vigor and be earlier than those exposed more hastily. Last spring I uncovered my salad very early, and it being warm weather, I hoed it, and to admit the rays of the sun more readily, removed the earth from the body of the plants. In about three days, the weather became unusually severe, and destroyed all my best plants. I had not one better than the third quality that survived. This was, however, a fatal experiment, and is mentioned only as a preventive.

I have for two years treated my salad in the manner here described, and have seen none so early.

ONIONS

It is generally supposed that Onions will not flourish in a light sandy soil, and I had been induced to fall in with the general opinion till lately, but experience has taught me to the contrary. Last fall about the middle of September, I sowed some onion seed; the autumn being remarkably dry, my plants were not larger than a common wire at the commencement of winter. In October I dug up my ground designed for Spring onions, and mixed with it a large quantity of manure. On the approach of winter, I covered my young onions with straw. The first warm days we had, in the Spring, I dug my ground lightly over and transplanted them. For several days there was no visible difference in my plants, as the weather was variable, and frequently excessively cold. They were, however, taking root, and as soon as the season for vegetation arrived, their growth was almost incredible. The onion requires either a moist soil, or a wet season. If sown in the Spring on a dry sod, before they attain their growth, we generally have dry hot weather and fail of a crop. Whereas, by sowing in the fall, the plants are ready to take their growth during the moisture of the Spring, and arrive to perfection before the drought of summer commences.

On the 17th of June I pulled Onions that were ripe and measured 7 3-4 inches in circumference. On the 19th I carried some to the market, which were acknowledged superior to any that had been seen there this season.

SPINNAGE.

This is a hardy plant and will grow in any soil and with any kind of treatment. From these circumstances Spinnage is more neglected in its cultivation, than most vegetables. Broad cast sowing is generally practised. The seed must be sown early in the fall. Grass springs up among it, and the fall rains beat upon the ground till it becomes quite hard.—The winter hardens the ground still more, and in the spring the plants are frequently choked with grass and weeds, and struggling with a hard and unyielding surface. No remedy can be applied. The manner of sowing prevents it. Though Spinnage will grow with such treatment, it is less luxuriant. Last fall, I sowed in drills and hoed it once. In the spring, I hoed it again, and my plants were superior to any I have ever seen. Many neglect to cover their Spinnage in winter, which I consider bad economy. It is little trouble to spread over it some straw, stable manure, which protects the crop while it softens and enriches the soil.

POTATOES.

As this species of vegetable constitutes an impor-

tant and profitable part of our food, and as it is a great luxury, very early in the season, any improvement in raising it, that will give us potatoes ten days sooner than the ordinary mode of cultivation, will, I conceive, be useful to the community. Sometime in the month of Feb. last, I took a bushel of potatoes, and after putting a layer of loam into a box, I put in a layer of potatoes, and then another layer of loam, and so on, till I had buried the whole bushel. I then placed my box in a warm part of my kitchen. In about a fortnight, they began to germinate. Being covered with a rich soil, the sprouts were very large and strong, and their growth very rapid till they were nearly an inch long. Their growth then, for several days, appeared to change its direction. I could see no difference in the length of the sprouts for some time, but from their roots a vast number of fibres shot out with great rapidity. When these fibres had extended themselves about half round the potatoe, on the 28th of March, I prepared my drills. I scattered a small quantity of compost manure along the bottom of the drill, I then cut each potatoe into two pieces, and placed them on the manure; I then scattered a small quantity of manure on each piece of potatoe. I say a small quantity, because in raising early potatoes, I use but little, comparatively speaking. In most cases I use it very liberally. If potatoes be planted in a rich soil, or be manured highly the tops will grow very luxuriantly, but will continue so to grow too long for the benefit of an early crop—for the bottom seldom grows much till the top has nearly attained its height. I am fully convinced that an inferior soil, with an ordinary quantity of manure, will yield an earlier crop than a very rich one. The manure used will be sufficient to warm and force the plant for a while, when, for want of strength of earth, its growth becomes less rapid, and then it begins to bottom.—Rich land will produce the largest crop, but it will be longer coming to maturity.

For potatoes, I consider vegetable manure, or a light compost, far preferable to any other.

On the 19th June, I carried potatoes to market, some of which measured 6 1/2 inches in circumference.

Notwithstanding my vegetables were very early, it is generally acknowledged that many, in fact most, of my neighbors have ten days the advantage in point of early soil. Mine is a heavy mould.

To discover some method of preparing my potatoes with less trouble to my family, I dug a hole in my garden about two feet deep. I filled it about half full of horse-dung, and put on it about two inches of earth. I then covered the place with boards. About two days after, when by the fermentation of the manure, the earth had become warm, I threw in a quantity of potatoes, and covered them with new earth. The potatoes sprouted quicker, and their growth was more rapid in this, than in the other experiment, and the convenience of this method will induce me to adopt it.

Care must be taken that the sprouts be not broken or bruised. The drills must not be deep, and the potatoes must be covered slightly. In covering my seeds, for all my early crops, I have adopted a manner, I presume entirely new, which I shall particularly describe under the head of Peas.

PEAS.

I had a variety of methods recommended to me for raising early peas; and tried several at the expense of considerable trouble, as with the potato, but shall pass in silence all, except those that proved successful.—On the 9th of March, I planted two rows of peas in the north side of my garden, by the side of a tight fence. Next to the fence, I planted a row in the usual manner, covering them with a level surface. I planted the second row in the manner referred to in my observations on potatoes. In my early planting, I make all my drills run easterly and westerly; and when I cover my seed, I arrange the earth so as to form an inclined plane about two feet wide; my drill being the centre and the north side elevated about six inches above the south. This is done to bring the rays of the sun more directly, or rather

more perpendicularly upon the surface. The extra trouble of planting in this manner is merely nothing, and the benefit resulting from it is much greater than would be imagined by any one who had not tried the experiment. The weather after I planted my peas was unusually cold. On the 25th the peas were up in the second row, and on the 28th in the first row. Notwithstanding those next the fence had the advantage in situation, the others gained in time three days. In no one article was I more successful than in peas, and should have given you other evidence of the fact, than my own declaration had I not been deceived by a report, that peas had been sold in market several days before there was one there.

BEANS.

If beans be planted early, there is no vegetable of common use, that requires more management. In a common soil, where there is little or no mixture of silex, they are very liable to rot before they germinate; and if they sprout, a storm, or cold weather, frequently destroys them before they break the ground. To prevent this, I prepare my drills, or hills in the usual way, then cover the ground with coarse gravel, about half an inch thick. I lay my beans upon the gravel, and then cover them with the same about half an inch thick. In this manner, the seed is perfectly secure. Rainy and cold weather will only retard its growth. I have had them remain, by reason of unfavourable weather, three weeks, without the appearance of vegetation, and then come up vigorous and healthy. If the weather be dry and warm, this method of covering beans is much preferable to the usual one, for gravel acquires a greater degree of heat, than loam, and as the root of the plant extends into the moist earth, nothing is to be apprehended from drought.

CABBAGE.

The cultivation of the cabbage appears to me to be brought nearer perfection than vegetables in general. I can suggest nothing worthy of notice, except what relates to their preservation and protection from vermin. Early Spring cabbage should be sown from the 1st to the 12th September. If the plants be permitted to remain during the winter where they were sown, many of them will never head, but shoot up immediately for seed, after transplanting in the spring. Many "prick them out" in pits dug about two feet deep, and cover them. The dampness of the ground in this case, often causes them to mildew, which renders the method a hazardous one.—The best way, in my opinion, is to raise the ground about 18 inches in a warm part of the garden, by boxing round it. In this, "prick out" the plants, the latter part of October. They must be put into the earth so deep as to cover the stalk or body, and even the stems of the bottom leaves. If the stalk be left above the ground, its tegument, which is very tender, will be corroded, by the frost, and thereby the plant will become unhealthy. The design of raising the ground is to render it dry, and prevent the mildew. Cover the box so as to keep it secure from rain, and as free from frost as possible, without the risk of overheating the plants.

With cabbages, as with lettuce, be careful to uncover them gradually. In some seasons, particularly this summer, my cabbages have been literally covered with what are vulgarly called "cabbage lice"—The growth of all seemed to be impeded, and of many quite stopped.

I procured some siftings of tobacco from the tobacconists, which may be bought for two shillings per bushel. This being about 2 quarts, boiled in a gallon of water, and after boiling, was added to enough water to make the whole ten gallons.

I made a syringe, 2 feet long, and 1 inch in diameter. By means of this, I attempted to wet my plants with the tobacco juice. I found that the water was thrown with too much violence: that the small plants were injured by the shock, and that my liquid would soon be exhausted. I then made a leather cap for my syringe, through which I made 8 small holes with a common sewing needle. With this I could throw the water so that it would fall like a gentle shower or

* A phrase used for temporary transplanting.

mist. Though my cabbages were much curled with lice, in a few days, they were expanded, and the leaves became smooth and assumed the appearance of health. The trouble of cleansing them is very inconsiderable. A man can syringe as many in an hour as he can hoe, and by washing them once a day, for two or three days, the vermin will be destroyed. The morning, while the dew is on the plants, is the most favourable opportunity. The liquid will, then, spread upon the leaf, and a much less quantity will be sufficient; for, if operated upon, when perfectly dry, the water will roll from it as from an oil cloth.

BEETS, CARROTS AND PARSNIPS.

My ordinary method of preparing the ground for these roots is to spade it in the fall, mix it with a liberal supply of manure, and throw it into ridges.—In the spring, I dig it over, mixing a fresh supply of manure of the best and strongest kind. I make my drills, or rather dig the ground where the drills are made, very deep, being careful to mix manure to the bottom. My manner of planting the seed is the same as my improved method under the head of peas.

All parsnips should be planted as soon as possible, after the ground is free from frosts. Also, beets and carrots for summer use. But those designed for winter should be planted about the middle of June.—These do not attain their full growth, and are more delicate than those planted early. Reference is had as to the time of planting, only to those raised for the table. The first of May is a proper time to sow for stock. I plant two rows of carrots, or parsnips, about eight inches apart, I then leave a space of about fifteen inches; then two rows more, and so on, leaving a wide space after every two rows. I plant my beets in single rows, leaving a wide space between each. These roots, particularly the beet, occupy considerable space, and to gain it, must by their growth remove the earth from the place they occupy, thereby condensing it and making it very hard.

To loosen the earth and give room for the spread of the roots, I dig up the broad spaces, keeping the blade of my spade, unless a very narrow one, parallel with the drill, that I may not injure the small side roots.

WHEAT.

In the autumn of last year, I received some wheat sent to the Society from Wetteravia. I measured a rod square of ground, on which I sowed one and an half gill of seed. I sowed it in drills, and early in the spring I hoed it, very slightly, once. It was considered before harvest, by farmers, as very fine. What I gathered, after it was perfectly dry, measured one peck, three quarts, two gills and a half.

There were two circumstances that operated against my wheat; one local, and the other incidental. It was sown by the east side of a tight fence where the wheat was feeble and poorly filled to the distance of two feet from the fence. The other circumstance was that of a boy's entering my garden, in his play, and hiding himself in the centre of my wheat, at a time when it was beginning to fill.—These circumstances lessened the crop.

The grain is free for any gentlemen of the society, who will sow with a view of disseminating it.

CORN.

For the production of good and early corn, the soil should be made very rich. I would recommend either for gardens or farms, that the ground should be dug or ploughed in autumn. Where the cultivator owns the soil, or has more than one crop in view, I would advise him to put on all his manure before ploughing; but, where he has only one in expectation, it will be for his interest to put the greatest part "into the hills". I spaded my ground for corn late in the fall, and mixed my manure with it.

About the 10th of April I planted three kinds of early corn, giving each a sameness of soil, situation, &c. One kind was a small yellow corn, which I received from Maine, about 30 miles north of Portland; one was a small kind of white corn, and the other kind was the yellow Sioux.

On the 12th July I carried corn to the market, which was the first that had been exhibited.

That from Maine was the earliest: the white was about four, and the Sioux about eight days later.—The two first are profitable only for the market, but the last, I conceive, will be of inestimable value to the northern part of this state and New England.—The 27th July, I gathered seed-corn from the small yellow, and the 31st from the other kinds; but the Sioux corn was not so dry when gathered as the first was. On the 29th June I planted some of the small yellow, where I had gathered a crop of peas, this season. On the 4th of September I gathered some of the corn for boiling, which was of good size and well filled, and sent a sample to one of the committee on vegetables. On the 22d of the same month I gathered some for seed, which was perfectly ripe. I have no doubt of the practicability of raising for the market, on the same ground, three crops in one season—viz: green peas, green corn and winter turnips.

My peas were all gathered ten days before I planted the corn; therefore, a week may be easily gained in the time, and that will bring the gathering of the corn to the 27th of August. The most convenient time of sowing the turnips would be when the corn was hoed the last time, say from the 1st to the 12th of August, which would be sufficiently early for winter turnips. This mode of cultivation would be lucrative to the gardener, by giving him one extra crop, and it would, by means of the corn fodder, furnish one of the choicest kinds of food for stock, at a season when most wanted.

I received from a friend three kernels of corn, which were brought from the Council Bluffs, one of which came up and was very healthy. It produced two ears of a large size. As it was not uncommonly early, I could see nothing to recommend it except its size.

Before I quit the subject, I beg leave to suggest to the Board, the propriety of recommending to the particular notice of the north eastern section of the Union, the Yellow Sioux Corn. Almost the whole of their dependence for bread is on corn, and this to them would be doubly valuable. In the first place, it requires so short a time to bring it to maturity, that the farmer may plant it any time in June and reasonably expect a good harvest; and in the second place it is so large that he may justly expect harvest will be abundant. Perhaps it may be said that individual enterprise will disseminate it; I presume it will, but it will require years for individuals to accomplish what may be done by the Society in a few months.

There is no one circumstance relating to my garden, that contributes more to the growth of early vegetables, than my manner of hoeing it. I never fail to dress all my small vegetables, as soon as the ground is sufficiently dry, after every shower or storm of rain. The hoe, for which the board was pleased to adjudge me a premium last year, is admirably calculated to render the soil light and dry, and the facility with which it is used, enables me to dress my garden twice, while I would be doing it once with a common hoe. I plant every thing in drills for the convenience of hoeing, and never wait for the weeds to notify me to bring forward my hoe. There is a saving of time in dressing gardens frequently, and the benefit resulting from it is greater than imagined, particularly in the first part of the season. Where the ground is seldom stirred in the spring, it is cold and the growth of vegetation slow, but when frequently stirred it becomes dry and lively, and of course warm, and the verdure of the plants will rival that of summer.

N. CAROLINA AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY.

RALEIGH, Dec. 21.—On Saturday last this Society held its annual meeting at the State-House. At which a committee was appointed to report on the objects and duties of the Society, and on the most eligible means to be pursued by it to promote the interests of Agriculture throughout the State. After attending to the business before the meeting, it adjourned to Wednesday evening; when the committee reported, that it was desirable to promote the formation of Agricultural Societies in all the counties of the State, which should be auxiliary to this Society,

and be represented by a Delegate at every annual meeting, or report thereto; and that premiums should be offered for practical and useful Essays on subjects connected with agriculture and rural economy, which should be annually published. The Report being concurred with, a committee of selections and publication was appointed, and a premium of a Golden Medal or Silver Cup of the value of ten dollars, is offered for the best Essay on the production and application of Manures, having reference to the materials within our State, and suitable to our species of crops; and a like premium for the best method of reclaiming worn-out lands.

Several of the County Auxiliary Societies were offered as Auxiliaries to this Society, by gentlemen present who were members of them, and accepted; and a number of new members were received.

A Committee was appointed to revise the Constitution, so as to be in conformity with the above Report, which provides for three Vice-Presidents, instead of two; and Dr. Helme, of Johnston County is appointed to deliver an Address at the next annual meeting.

The Officers for the ensuing year were appointed; a list of which shall appear in a future paper.—Reg.

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FROM THE PLOUGH BOY.

THE PATENT RAILWAY.

Is different from all others in being composed of one piece of timber, to support carriage and horse, requiring no road to be made. It is a combination of an iron and wood Railway. The strength is in the wood, and the iron lessens the friction. A plank about 20 feet long, 15 inches wide, and 3 thick, with grooves sunk near each side, into which a rod of round 3-8 inch rolled iron is confined, forms one length of the Railway.—The different pieces are connected together, and supported upon pieces of timber laid cross-ways, or can be elevated from 4 to 20 feet, by timbers set in the ground 4 feet deep, or morticed in a wood sill, and braced. Wagons to run on this Railway should have wheels of cast iron, with grooved rims, (similar to shives for ship's blocks) and hang very low; they cannot upset, as they can meet no obstruction. It is well fitted for removing dirt, in cutting down hills, digging canals, &c. On a small descent the wagon loaded would run itself, and by means of a rope bring up another carriage empty. Machinery can be made to unload the carriage. It is a great saving of trucking on wharves, where it can be laid fixed, for trucks to run over; or in joints of 6 feet, to be moved to any part of the wharf, so as to reach from a ship into a store, then have several wagons, one always ready to receive the goods as they come from the vessel, without touching the wharf: and if they require weighing, it can be done on the wagon, and then carried to the store.

The Honourable WILLIAM GRAY very liberally allowed the patentee to test its merits upon his wharf, where about 400 feet are laid down permanently; moveable circular joints can be added, to reach to vessels on each side of the wharf, a part of this rises at the rate of 175 feet per mile; a ton weight was drawn up this hill, and over two tons on a level part, with one hand.

Thus far it has been tested and proved, but it is the opinion of the patentee, that it can be an auxiliary (if not a substitute) for all large

roads and turnpikes, to travel and to carry goods. There will be no difficulty in crossing roads, the Railway can be carried over 15 feet high, to allow carriages to pass under, or it can pass level, secured by stout iron from injury by horses and wheels going over it, nor would it be choaked with mud. A pair of Railways are generally laid 2 feet distant, one for going and one for returning. The pair of railways require a width of but 7 feet of ground, hence it can run on one side of a road or turnpike: or if elevated 10 feet (on posts) can pass over fields of grain without injuring the cultivation.

Hills present no formidable obstacles, the Railways can sometimes wind round the base, or if it is a narrow ridge, can be carried through level by tunneling, the expense would be small, an opening but 7 feet square being required; or a power on the top of the hill, (horse, team, or man,) would assist to draw up the load by an endless rope, &c. In a cold country, it should be protected from the snow and ice, by a rough covering of boards, (or house) seven feet high, and 7 feet wide.

A horse walking on the plank will draw ten carriages, each loaded with half a ton, and they are so arranged that the horse cannot see the width of the road, nor the height he may be from the ground, and he cannot step off.

A small steam engine in a wagon will drive itself along, and draw a stage coach after it at the rate of twenty miles per hour, with fifty passengers, the baggage being placed between, would protect the passengers from danger from the boiler's bursting—who, moving along smooth, could read or sleep, neither incommoded by mud in winter, or dust in summer.

A Fancy Coach is also made, in which persons can set and move themselves forward with very little exertion, by simply turning a crank; some persons have calculated they could go faster than a horse, farther in a day, and not harder work than to drive a dull one. These Coaches are made light, that a traveller overtaking a dull wagon, may step out, place his Coach upon the other Railway, and pass by. * They are capable of great ornament, and would be a great acquisition to a country Seat; they can be made to run on the ground and to turn round; an excellent exercise for persons of sedentary habits, particularly.—Cost \$50.

Platforms are built every few miles to allow the slow wagons to run out, when the steam Coach passes by—to rest, unload, &c. The load being on a number of carriages, no great weight comes on one part at a time; a gripe pressing on the wheels, prevents the carriages from going down hill too fast.

Cast iron Railways are in general use in England for conveying coal, iron, lead, &c. to the shipping; also in the London docks for removing goods; steam carriages have run upon them. Some writers have urged their general use for travelling, but the great expense of them has prevented it; they usually cost \$5,000 per mile, laid single, on wood cross-pieces. The patent is better, will last as long, and costs but \$1500. Some engineers have considered Railways su-

* These Carriages can be seen in operation at Exhibition Hall, in Hanover-street, Boston.

perior to canals in many situations. Compare it with the Middlesex canal—Boatmen charge \$10 to carry a ton from Boston to Concord, 75 miles; on a Railway a horse and a driver would take a load of 5 tons there in three days, expense less than \$10, leaving a profit of \$40 on the load, for the owners, of the Railway.

Suppose a pair of these Railways was laid from Boston to Worcester, running over the *Cotting Avenue*, and on one side of the turnpike:—

The distance, (avoiding some hills) 40 miles	
\$3000, is	\$120,000
Cost of covering it the whole way, of rough boards, \$1250	50,000
Building a warehouse in Boston, one in Worcester, and three intermediate ones, to receive and deliver goods, cost	10,000
Extra expense in crossing valleys and hills, and building platforms,	10,000
For Superintendence, and Supernumeraries, allow	10,000
Total cost of the most expensive plan, \$200,000	

Annual Expense.

Toll to the Avenue and Turnpike, not over	\$2,000
Salary of Clerks, as Toll-Keepers, at warehouses, 3,000	
Repairs would be trifling when housed, [allow]	3000—\$8,000

Annual Income.

Toll on 10,000 tons of goods, and produce, at \$3	30,000
Toll on Steam Coach, with mail and passengers	3,000—\$33,000

which after deducting the expenses, leaves a nett profit of \$25,000 to the proprietors of the Railway, or 12½ per cent interest.

A company to hire the Railways could afford to pay even a *greater toll* as one driver and horses will convey 5 tons to Worcester in two days, at an expense of \$5, which added to the toll of \$15, makes 20 total cost of load. The present price of carriage is from \$8 to \$10 per ton, but if this Company charge \$6 they will have a nett profit of \$10 on each load.

When we consider the safety of carriage, no jolting and breaking, and the *expedition* and *cheapness*, we may reasonably calculate to engross the whole trade in a short time. Wagons should start at stated hours every day, if they had not a full load of goods, they could carry plaster, salt, iron, &c. and returning, could bring in wood, hay, (screwed in bundles,) potatoes, &c from a greater distance than can be done on turnpikes.

In this view of the subject, the Railways would increase the value of distant lands more than the whole cost. Any persons can themselves ascertain the truth of these statements. There are more than 5,000 tons of plaster, salt, iron, flour, sugar, molasses, liquors, manufactures, &c. carried to that section of the country in one year, and as much produce brought down, in pork, liquors, butter, cheese, ashes, grain, manufactures, &c.

This plan is so novel, many persons think they see insurmountable difficulties, without understanding all the details. It cannot be

more *chimerical* than the Duke of Bridgewater's project, to carry his canal 3 miles *through a hill* by tunnelling, yet he completed it, and gained the most princely fortune in Great Britain, by an enterprise pronounced *ridiculous*, by the wiseacres of the age. A Fulton was ridiculed for his attempt to apply steam to boats. And those who pronounce, that horses *cannot walk on a plank*, must allow that steam *can and has been used*, and is considered as *cheap* as horses; true one wagon cannot get before another, but the laws of the Railway prevent one from stopping another, they all go at a fixed rate.

Some persons suppose Wagoners, or malicious persons, would injure the Railways, and persons would not dare to travel on it; a person bent on mischief, can never want an opportunity; he can remove the lynch-pins of a wheel, or set fire to a house, but he is liable to punishment.

Turnpike Companies would be glad of their establishment, it takes from them their most unprofitable customers, that cut up their roads in Spring.

A *Single Railway* would answer to lay between Brunswick and Trenton, to carry passengers and light goods; the country is nearly level, it could be laid for \$75,000, (without covering) including the purchase of two small steam engines, and coaches to carry 100 passengers; there would be a platform half way, where they could pass each other, and replenish fire and water. The daily expense—estimate at \$5 for turnpike toll, \$15 for hire of men and cost of wood, \$5 for wear of engine, is \$25—allow an average of 50 passengers per day, both ways, at \$1,50 cts. is \$75, leaving a nett profit of \$50 per day to the owners of the Railway. These engines could go slower, and carry goods, after they carried the passengers; the Company could buy land, instead of paying a toll to turnpikes.

In South Carolina, suppose a *pair* of Railways was laid from Charleston to Augusta, and a fork run to Columbia, in all 120 miles, cost \$400,000, a load of cotton would be carried in 5 days, instead of 30 by water; \$2 per bale would be readily paid for carriage, same proportion for rice, tobacco, &c. and \$25 per ton for carrying goods up; there is sufficient transportation to make the work very valuable.

By reference to the *Encyclopedias*, it will be seen the subject of Railways has engrossed much of the attention of the British nation.—They are important auxiliaries to large canals—diverging at right angles on either side, and bring to the boats produce over a rugged country, where canals could not be well formed: and in a cold country they could be used a longer time each year than canals, even if they were not covered in. That they are valuable at coal mines, stone quarries, &c. need not be mentioned; *there*, the strength might be increased, both in the timber and iron, if necessary. They would probably be useful in the navy and ship yards, for conveying timber, &c.

This plan is essentially different, and *much cheaper* than any other ever offered in Great Britain, or this country. There are many things to be attended to in the erection of the Railways, and using the carriages, which can-

not be particularly noticed in a circular, at the same time, any good mechanic can erect the whole, after one view, ; and it is easily kept in repair, from its *entire simplicity*.

Patent Rights are offered for sale, for a State, Town, or Special purpose; and further information will be given, by addressing a Letter, post paid, to

C. P. WILLIAMS.
New York Museum.

On Indian Corn.

FOR THE AMERICAN FARMER.

Sir,—In my last I endeavoured to enforce the great value of corn, and my opinion of the best method of planting. I do not pretend to say, that the mode pointed out by me, is that by which the largest quantity of this precious grain can be made, but we may purchase gold too dear, and that which may be a beautiful and productive tillage upon a few acres, with ample resources and small expenditures, is not to be placed in competition with our extensive fields, which although they do not receive all the good management of garden culture, yet produce an ample supply for family consumption, and an overplus for sale, to assist in supporting the hospitable propensity of a southern farmer.—I will not deny, that small farms well cultivated, will best support a dense population, but while the rage for emigrating to the west shall continue, we cannot expect a great increase of inhabitants in Maryland; and, indeed, it will be to me a serious and afflictive cause of regret, if I live to see our country seats deserted by their hospitable and polished owners, whose expanded minds and liberal habits require, and must have the ample resources, which a petty farm, under the best Turnip, Potato and Mangel Wurtzel husbandry, cannot supply. It is for extensive culture, that my remarks are made, believing that it is high time for us to adopt the most frugal and productive methods, when we are daily and hourly losing our servants—sometimes by direct stealing—most generally by seduction, and always by concealing and employing them;* and this too, under the sacred name of religion, by persons who reproaching us for our indolence, use the basest and most dishonest means to rob us of our labourers, that they also may be indolent.—If these overrighteous had applied to the fair and honourable purchase of young females, one half of the money which it has cost them to seduce & conceal these from the orphan, the widow, and kind master and mistress, they would have liberated four times the number of Africans, which their nefarious plans have as yet accomplished; and they would have avoided the cause of shedding so much human blood, justly attributed to their intolerant interference. Without being an advocate for slavery, I am an advocate for liberty of conscience,

* The Apostle Paul, did not conceal Onesimus, but sent him back to his master Philemon. He would not interfere with the conscience or property of Philemon.

that every man may freely enjoy his property, amenable to the laws of his country.

I know of no remedy for these increasing and organized robberies, unless our legislature will make it a condition of manumission, that the slave manumitted, shall immediately remove, into one of the slave *concealing* states, and also banish all of our vagrant and worthless free blacks, who if they *pass themselves as runaways*, will find ready admission, protection and even *support out of their poor funds*. I say let these regulators of conscience have enough of them—the hundreds we can spare, and who would soon be replaced by valuable white labourers—But to proceed. I know no reason, why an active and intelligent man, may not as easily cultivate and *improve* one thousand, as fifty acres of land—a domestic man, not ashamed of, or above his business. To this man, my plan of growing corn is of importance, more especially as I do not contemplate what is called fallow wheat.

I have placed your corn in that form, which will greatly increase the number of stalks, and as far as my experience goes, rather improving than diminishing the number and size of ears to each. It becomes, therefore, a subject for calculation as well as reflection, admitting that you do not grow as much wheat upon corn ground as upon fallow, whether the increased wheat does not in various ways, cost more than it will profit. I am not convinced that corn is so injurious to land as is generally supposed; but this I do know, that the best wheat is that which is immediately joining, and next to the corn stalk—and I am fully convinced that the lands of Maryland; from which, since the first settlement of our country, every thing has been taken, and to which, in most cases little or nothing has been returned; independent of their natural great fertility, are indebted to the ridge tillage for their continued productiveness. On cold, stiff clays, the flat tillage is destructive, and even upon light loams, nothing is gained by it. At seven feet lands, we have a sufficiency of furrows to drain off superfluous wet—and with this advantage, that after a few crops you obtain the desirable level of your fields, which enables you to open permanent drains. If your land is hilly, there are furrows enough to prevent an accumulation of water, which would otherwise in seeking a vent, burst into a deep gully.

The favourite division into six fields, whereof one in corn and two in wheat, does not appear to be as beneficial a mode as four fields, one whereof in corn and wheat annually. The preparation of a fallow, is not a light labour, and you will admit that it is easier to manure a fourth than a third of a farm. I offer the following estimate upon 1000 acres of arable land.

Six field Tillage.

Bushels.

166 2-3 acres of corn, at four feet six inches, supposing two stalks to the hill, and 1 ear to the stalk, 100 ears to the bushel.

7170

Upon this corn ground, cut to pieces by water furrows—impoverished by cross ploughing, and by water retained at the crossings. I allowed 6 bushels wheat per acre.

106 2-3 acres of fallow wheat, for which I will allow 15 bu. per acre.

Corn at 50 cents, wheat at \$1, is \$6251

250 acres—and I shall hereafter show that by my method, you have really two stalks to a hill.

Upon this corn ground, with few water furrows & no cups, 7 bu.

Which at same rate, is \$9528

Difference, \$3277

My estimates may appear wild, and perhaps I have committed errors of calculation—yet I have given sufficient room to come and go upon. My object is to show, that we do not work it right, and that by the cross tillage, we not only made less of wheat and corn, than by any other process, the same or less labour will produce, but by it we impoverish our soil, and that the 1-6th corn and 1-3d wheat, is not the most productive mode of farming.

Your obedient servant,

F.

Culture of Indian Corn.

To the Editor of the American Farmer.

December, 17, 1821.

Dear Sir—In perusing your paper the other day, which I always do at the first leisure moment I met with an article that particularly engaged my attention. It is contained in your paper of the 7th of this month, and relates to the culture and best distances for planting Indian Corn.

In regard to the necessity of clean cultivation and good tilth for this most valuable of all crops, I entirely concur with your worthy correspondent "F." But his opinion relative to distance, and the advantages of the particular one which he recommends, differs so materially from the prevalent opinions and practice in the middle counties of Virginia, where corn has long been the chief staple, that I think it may be useful to tell you what they are. I believe I may venture to assert, that with us, every distance which either whim or judicious calculation could suggest, has been fairly tried; and the practice has long settled down with a great majority of farmers in favour of five and a half feet each way, or $5\frac{1}{2}$ and 5 where more than one stalk is left in a hill, and 5 one way, and $3\frac{1}{2}$, 3, $2\frac{1}{2}$, and 18 inches the other way, where single stalk corn is preferred; the $5\frac{1}{2}$ feet being the widest distance for every kind of land, and the narrow distances on the beds, being varied as above stated, according to the fertility of the soil. Shorter distances, such as $4\frac{1}{2}$ feet, 4, $3\frac{1}{2}$ and 3 each way, which have been known to succeed in the Western

country, and in more northern latitudes than ours, have often been tried with us, but without success. A wider distance, at least one way, seems indispensably necessary in our climate.

We all sow our wheat in corn land, which is very generally divided by a small water-furrow, into beds five and a half feet wide, and two of these making eleven feet every scythesman carries at one swath; nor have I heard for many years a single complaint of the width except from awkward beginners. Our wheat is cut as clean as I have ever seen it in any part of the United States, unless it has been on smooth fallow. Indeed our best scythemens assert, that they can cut much cleaner, where their arms have full scope, than where they are confined to swaths only 7 or 9 feet wide. They cut with two steps, and never catch their wheat as is probably the practice in your correspondent's neighbourhood; for I know it used to prevail in many parts of Maryland. For this mode, I will admit that a swath of 11 feet is too wide. The practice of cutting off the corn before we sow, is now becoming very common with us; and cross ploughing is getting more and more out of fashion:—skimmers, cultivators, harrows, and sweep-alls*, being substituted by many, instead of the plough, for the whole culture after the first breaking up.

I am, dear sir,

Your constant reader, and well wisher,

JAMES M. GARNETT.

*As this is a new implement I believe, the following description may be acceptable. It is nothing more than a broad thin bar of Iron, 3 or 4 inches wide, and about 30 inches or 3 feet long; connected with a wooden frame at each end, by two iron uprights in such a manner, that the front edge of the bar which is made sharp, and well steeled, has nearly the same inclination to the surface of the earth, that a drawing-knife in operation, has to the board on which it acts. This edge then cuts every thing before it,—running from 2 to 3 inches below the surface.

FOR THE AMERICAN FARMER.

On Curing Bacon.

LOCUST LEVEL, Frederick Co., Dec. 30th, 1821.

John S. Skinner, Esq.

Sir—I have observed in number 38 and vol. 3, of your American Farmer, a treatise on curing bacon-hams, &c. by John Darby, Esq. Richmond County, Virginia, whose treatise I consider the best I have ever seen in print, and probably as good as can be offered; nevertheless, as I differ with him as to the mode of applying the same ingredients, (sugar and molasses excepted which I deem an unnecessary expense,) I will inform you of the mode, which I have found the best that I have ever tried, in as concise a manner as I can to be intelligent, without comments, leaving the breed and size of hogs for a future examination. I first strike my pork down on planks laid sloping, (as Mr. Darby does) with fine Liverpool salt—after laying from 8 to 14 days, agreeable to the weather—longest of cold days,—I re-salt it, having the salt well rubbed on the skin, and pack it in tubs made on purpose, being wider at

top than bottom, holding about 1000 lbs. each; having previously prepared a strong brine, by boiling salt, (the allum I now prefer) with about two or three pounds of saltpetre, with twenty or thirty pods of red pepper for each tub of meat—while boiling, it requires frequent skimming, and when perfectly cold, I fill up the tubs, entirely covering the meat with it—about two weeks after, I have the meat taken out—re-boil the brine; add while boiling, about 1-3d lye, made strong from green hickory wood ashes, &c. a few more red peppers; skimming as before—when perfectly cold, it is applied over the meat again. In two weeks time, it will be ready for the smoke house, when it is taken out of the pickle, wiped clean and hung up, hock downwards. No smoke is applied the first day, unless very cold weather—when commence smoking with green hickory wood. Fearing it might be alledged that it would overheat the meat, I will give a short description of my smoke-house. My meat is hung in the upper story of a small building; the lower story intended for servants, the upper floor being covered with clay mortar to repel the heat downwards, and prevent fire above—below, is a small ten plate stove, whose pipe ascends one foot above the floor—some bricks are piled round the pipe above, and about one foot higher, on which an old stove plate is laid, to spread the smoke and prevent fire above. The stove keeps the occupants below comfortable, (who seldom neglect the fire in cold weather) and fully answers smoking my meat; there being no aperture in the floor, except where the pipe goes, they have no access, the meat house door being in the wall of the second story. When perfectly smoked, the hams and shoulders are packed again in the tubs, with as coarse salt as I can obtain—from whence it is used—comes out clean—when packed with ashes it is otherwise. I have also cured them with the first brine, with lye in it, but thought the lye penetrated too deep, though they kept remarkably well.

Mr. Skinner—I hope that our agricultural society will award premiums for the best cured hams, which shall be exhibited at our future cattle shows—believing it as essentially beneficial as for good hogs, (for then the members might have the pleasure of feasting on them); and I'll venture to assert, they would be treated with as good hams of bacon, as ever came from Burlington, Westphalia, or any another part of this globe, from

Your friend,
and very humble servant,
JOHN HUGHES.

Buckwheat Cakes.

For the American Farmer.

Dear Sir—Among the number of recipes in your useful paper, allow me to add the following, perhaps not generally known.

The batter of buckwheat frequently sours, from being made over night, and the house-keeper is disappointed in having good cakes. To remedy this evil, add a little powdered mag-

nesia, which will be found to correct it entirely, if added fifteen minutes before baking.

A SUBSCRIBER.

Some Observations on the Disease of the Morello Cherry, and Management of Trees.

Read before the Agricultural Society of Bucks County, 30th July, and before the Philadelphia Society for promoting Agriculture, Oct. 23, 1821.

Sharon, Bucks County, Pennsylvania, 4th July, 1821. §

Sir—The premature decay of our trees, particularly those of the fruit bearing kinds, is indeed a matter of serious regret, and demands our pointed attention. I hope that the important committee over which you preside, will, in their researches, make some discoveries that may prove of peculiar benefit to society. I consider it a privilege to belong to such a committee, and will most cheerfully throw in my little store of knowledge.

In most cases of decay that have come under my notice, I have found a collection of some kind of vermin, which I suppose to be the cause of disease; but on a more close examination I am of opinion, that in some instances it is only the consequence, especially as relates to the morello cherry. The disease which has proved so fatal to that tree, is first observed by the formation of excrescences in the outer branches, and even in the stems of very young trees. In these excrescences are lodged a number of small whitish worms, which I took to be, and I believe many others think is, the cause of the decay; but being informed that scoring the bark was useful, and the informer being unable to give me any reason why it was so, I was induced to look further into the case. Whereupon I discovered, that the lumps or excrescences were formed about a month before the worms commenced their operations, and then they appeared to enter from the outside. Last year I selected for experiment two trees that stood near to each other: early in March I scored one of them, by making three incisions along the trunk, extending from the branches to near the root; the other I left undone. In the spring of the current year, that which was scored was free of disease; whilst that not scored was so affected that I thought it necessary to take the whole head off. Joshua Tyson, esq. of Montgomery county, has a tree of the large brown species, the trunk of which is about thirteen inches in diameter; it became much diseased in the year 1819; in the course of that year the bark opened along the trunk in a perpendicular direction, about six feet in length as if it had been scored; in 1820, the tree threw out new shoots from below the diseased parts, and assumed a healthy appearance, and during that year a ridge formed where the bark had been opened, jutting out an inch beyond the general round of the body; and in consequence of the tender state of the bark in that part, the ridge has this year increased, and it does appear that it will continue to do so, until relieved in other places by incisions. On

another examination of the excrescence this season, I found the eggs of the insect laid on the outside, and that the worm does actually make its way inwards. From these observations, I conclude that the decay of this valuable fruit tree is occasioned by a diseased state of the bark (being what is commonly termed bark-bound, obstructing the circulation of the sap), and that scoring at the proper season is an effectual remedy; at least it is harmless and easy. Whether I have chosen the best time for the operation remains to be proven; and if I am in the main right in my conclusion, it is a strong instance of the necessity of searching into causes, instead of being misled by mere effects.

It appears to me that the practice of trimming trees, so as to form the head several feet above the ground, is unnatural, although it is certainly attended with many conveniences, and on some occasions cannot be dispensed with, particularly where the ground is tilled; but such exposure of the stem is perhaps frequently the source of disease, especially in some of the delicate kinds of fruits, such as cherry, plum, peach, &c. I have now some peach trees growing on the north side of a board fence, which really look more flourishing than some others that are not so protected, and from this hint I would suggest the propriety of suffering the head to form so near the ground as to shade the whole stem; or if trimmed up, to place a board, or tie straw or some other covering on the south side of each tree. The application of soft soap, well scrubbed with a hard brush, has lately been highly spoken of; and the washing with lime or composition has long been practised; and also scraping and currying the bark; all of which I believe to be useful, but each in rotation, or some change is probably best. A respectable member of our society has recommended the ringing or girdling of fruit trees, to force them into bearing. I have tried the experiment, and am satisfied that fruit was thereby produced. At the same time I am convinced that the trees are injured, and must therefore disapprove of the operation, and in lieu thereof I would decidedly prefer scoring, that is by making incisions into the bark lengthwise up the trunk, continuing if necessary along the principal branches.

In planting trees I would recommend your digging the holes of a size more than sufficient to receive the roots (the larger the better), but not too deep, especially if the soil is shallow and the subsoil clay; the earth thrown in should be completely pulverized and enriched, and if in the spring season, about half a bucket of water to each tree is very beneficial. After planting the more valuable or delicate kinds, I have thrown straw, leaves, or other litter around with great success; the litter keeps a continual moisture, prevents the growth of other plants, and acts as a manure; but it should not be continued longer than autumn, as there would be danger of mice harbouring in it and barking the trees. Some persons stake their trees at the time of planting, and I think well of the practice for the first season; but the stakes should be removed by winter, otherwise the stem, either depending upon the support afforded by

stake, or for want of proper exercise, will not grow in proportion to the other parts, and will become too weak to sustain the head; for trees have an apparent consciousness, and will conform to the situation in which they are placed.

Yours, very respectfully,
JAMES WORTH.

Mr. JAMES P. MORRIS, Chairman of the Committee on Freight and Forest Trees.

For the American Farmer.

MR. SKINNER,
Besides the good effects that are to result at our Cattle Shows, from the offer of premiums for good Stock, there are other points that require not less the attention of your premium committee. Among these are ploughing matches for oxen; Domestic Manufactures—I mean those that are strictly domestic, such as are wrought in our families, and the offer of a premium of valuable amount, for the best treatise on agriculture either in the shape of an address, or any other form, that may be offered to the Society, which shall point out the errors and defects of Maryland farming, and shall suggest therefor the best remedies. We have had no writer in Maryland on the subject, since Bordley, who has given any thing in the form of a treatise on the subject. There is nothing at this time, in my humble opinion, that is more required to aid the good cause in which we are engaged than this. Perhaps the subject may not require the offer of a premium more than once. But in this, as in all other points, the premium should not be awarded where the thing offered does not appear to merit it.

ENQUIRER.

December 21st, 1821.

Maryland Cattle Show and Fair.

At a meeting of the Committee of Arrangement, on behalf of the Maryland Agricultural Society, at the dwelling of the Chairman, General CHARLES RIDGELY, of Hampton, it was resolved to distribute Premiums, consisting of pieces of Silver Plate, amounting in value to \$500, at the Cattle Show and Fair, to be held on the last THURSDAY and FRIDAY in May next, at the Maryland Tavern on the Frederictown Turnpike Road, four miles from Baltimore.

1.—LIVE STOCK.

Horses.

For the best Stallion, a piece of plate valued at \$30
Second best, do.

For the best brood Mare,
Second best, do.

Asses.

For the best Jack,
For the best Jennet,

Mules.

For the best Mule,
Second best Mule,

2.—CATTLE.

For the best Bull over two years old,
Second best, do. do.

For the best Milch Cow,
Second best, do.

For the best yoke of working Oxen,
Second best do. do.

For the best Bull under two years old,
Second best do. do.

For the best Heifer,
Second best do.

3.—SWINE.

For the best Boar,
Second best do.

For the best Sow,
Second best do.

4.—SHEEP.

For the best Ram of the pure Merino blood,
For the best Ram of any other breed,

For the second best Ram of any other breed,

For the best two Merino Ewes,

For the best two Ewes of any other breed,

IMPLEMENT OF HUSBANDRY.

For the best Plough,
For the best Straw Cutter,

For the best Drill Machine,

For the best Machine, or model of a Machine,
for preparing unwretted flax for the wheel,

Where premiums are taken for any of the above implements—the implement itself, so taking the premium, or a model of it, must be stamped with the name of the owner, and left in the possession of the Society, for public exhibition. Eleven premiums, amounting to one hundred dollars, will be reserved to be distributed at the discretion of the Society, to wit: One valued at \$20; two ditto \$15; two at \$10, and six at \$5.

The Committee of Arrangement, take this occasion to notify the Agricultural Community, that the Society have it in contemplation to hold another Cattle Show and Fair, in the month of October next, when they hope that it will be in their power to award Premiums for crops, and for Manufactures wrought in private families.

It is expected that from and after October next, the exhibitions will be held in that month and only once a year.

As some of the crops, to which it is thought to be expedient to call the public attention in this state, must necessarily be sowed or planted, *prior to the meeting in May*; the Committee of Arrangement, deem it adviseable at this time to indicate, *in general terms*, the objects for which it is supposed the Premiums will be offered, leaving the details to be published as soon as practicable after the next show.

For the best $\frac{1}{2}$ acre of Carrots.
do acre of Mangel Wurtzel.
do acre of Potatoes.
do $\frac{1}{2}$ acre of Onions.
do acre of Cabbage, for feeding stock.
do acre of Ruta Baga.
do acre of Common Turnips.
do acre of Indian Corn.
do acre of Orchard Grass.
do acre of Pumpkins.
do acre of Flax.
do acre of Wheat, do Rye, do Barley, do Oats.

The persons who shall compete for the premiums that may be offered for crops, will have to give a description of the soil on which the crops grew, state the kind and quantity of manure used; and also the manner and expense of cultivation and harvesting.

The premium offered for the best Milch Cow, will not be bestowed unless the owner exhibits to the satisfaction of the Awarding Committee, an accurate account of the food and treatment of the Cow; the quantity and management of the milk, and the quantity of cream and butter previously obtained from it for at least thirty successive days.

No animal will be considered entitled to any of the regular premiums, except such as have been bred in, and are at the time owned by persons residing within this State or the District of Columbia—and in no case will a premium be given for live stock, unless the owner shall have given one week's previous notice in writing, to Mr. John S. Skinner, Postmaster of Baltimore, stating himself to be the owner of the animal, and the manner of feeding and rearing it, together with its pedigree, &c. &c. as nearly as practicable.

CHARLES RIDGELY, of Hampton,
Chairman.

J. E. HOWARD, Jr. Secretary.

All Editors of newspapers in this state and in the District of Columbia, are respectfully requested to copy the above.

Editorial Correspondence.

TOBACCO FLEA, OR FLY.

Extract—Staunton, Virg. Dec. 26th, 1821.

I have taken notice of a great deal having been said in the first volume of the Am. Farmer, about the small flea, skipping fly, which is so destructive on young plants. I have for the last 14 years used ambier (tobacco juice with complete success on various kinds of plants, and particularly on cabbage plants) two or three pounds of leaf tobacco is sufficient to protect thousands of plants from their ravages. I boil the tobacco until all its strength mixes with the water; say a pound or thereabouts to a gallon of water, and with a common watering pot just as the plants begin to chip through the ground I sprinkle the beds and repeat it after every rain until they are large enough to protect themselves. I know nothing about the cultivation of tobacco, but am confident if used in time this application will protect that as well as other plants.

A. S.

In answer to Inquiries from the Editor respecting Albany Peas.

ALBANY, December 28, 1821.

Dear Sir,—Peas are best raised as a fallow crop to precede wheat. Both do well upon the same soil. The ground is usually of clay or stiff loam, should be ploughed in the fall, and the peas sown broadcast, two bushels per acre, early in the spring, and harrowed in. If ground is employed which has been cropped the preceding year, it requires the same preparation which is given for oats or barley. Neither yard manures nor Gypsum, are advantageously applied to peas, as they cause the crop to grow too much to vines. They are cut with a scythe—gathered in small heaps, and suffered to lay a day or two, that the haulm may dry and the whole crop ripen. The average product is about one-third greater than that of wheat upon the same soil.

The application of this crop is various. It is principally used in fattening hogs, before corn harvest. In some cases the swine are turned into the field, where they are permitted to consume the whole crop; in others, the vines are stacked near the hog yard, and fed out twice or thrice a day. And in other cases again, the peas are threshed and ground, or steamed with potatoes or pumpkins. The advantages of the first mode are, that the vines afford much succulent food, the whole of the unripe peas are eaten; nothing is wasted, and the expense of harvesting and threshing is saved. This, notwithstanding, is deemed bad husbandry; and the other modes are generally preferred. When this crop is designed wholly for the stock on the farm, three pecks or a bushel of oats are sown on each acre with the peas. The oats support the pea vines, without materially lessening the crop, and both ground together, afford an excellent provender for all kinds of cattle, as well as swine.

The kinds forwarded to you, are the marrow fat and green pea. They are perhaps not so

productive as some other kinds, although they are deemed the best for family use. Our favourite way of eating them, when dry, is in the form of soup. They are boiled in soft water with pork, until perfectly soft. They are then passed through a fine sieve, or coarse cloth, and the skins wholly separated—then boiled down to a proper consistence, and seasoned to suit the taste.

I have three years in succession made Indian corn my fallow crop, and am confirmed in its utility. I plant an early kind, which I have gathered the first 14 days in September, by cutting the whole at the surface of the ground. The hills are then split, the ground ploughed once, harrowed, sown, and the seed harrowed in, both ways. My manure, in an unfermented state, is applied to the corn ground, which is generally a clover lay or sod, in liberal quantities, spread as it is ploughed in, a heavy roller passed over the ground, and immediately planted at the distance of two and a half by three feet, and three stocks left to grow in a hill. In tilling the crop, I hill but slightly, and endeavor to leave the sod unbroken by the plough or hoe. By this process the whole of the manure is saved; and after giving nutriment to the corn, it is precisely fitted in September, as well as the sod, to become proper manure for the wheat crop. I either follow the wheat with grass or turnips; in which latter case, the stubble is once ploughed as soon as the grain is off; turnip seed sown and harrowed in. In this way of management, I have raised 90 bushels of corn, 39 of wheat, and 250 of turnips, on an acre of ground, in eighteen months. I have a very promising crop of wheat on the ground, where I raised my corn last summer; part of it is stocked with Timothy, and three acres are reserved for flat turnips, to be sown as soon as the wheat is harvested.

I have remarked one fact worthy of further investigation. In a field where I sowed a new kind of wheat, but which did not come up, having lost the power of vegetation, considerable rye made its appearance in the spring, which induced me to preserve it for the crop which it promised. The seed of this rye was taken out with the manure. But when nearly fit for cutting, I found there was scarcely a head but what was affected with ergot. While in my rye field, of 6 or 8 acres, not 200 rods from it, I do not remember to have seen a particle of this vegetable poison. The seed sown in the field was steeped several days in a strong brine, and rolled in lime, a precaution which I adopt with all my seed grain. Is the ergot propagated like smut? and did the salt and lime destroy it in the seed sown? I should like to see this thing explained.

But what has tended to puzzle me the more, is the fact, that the spear grass, or green grass, *Poa Viridis*, which grew in detached bunches where it had sprung up spontaneously, was observed to abound with ergot, while on that which grew in the meadows none was observed.

Since I last wrote you, I have had my doubts solved as to the identity of Timothy and herds-grass. The latter is a spontaneous growth in our wet lands, and is known by the name of

Foul Meadow, the *white top* and *red top* being different varieties.

I sent you a small parcel of *lentils*. Have you received them?

I want to obtain some of the *tall meadow oat* grass seed, which is raised in the middle states, and chickory. I suspect these are better adapted to this climate than Sanfoin and Lucerne.—The latter is peculiarly adapted for soiling, and is admirably calculated to stand the drought and frost.

I am, Dear Sir,
Your obedient servant,
J. BUEL.

J. S. SKINNER, Esq.

[COMMUNICATED.]

Recipes for the DYSENTERY—An Indian Remedy.

Take the root of Cattail, (a flag) bruise and boil it in sweet milk, and let the person affected, sup it warm or cold.

It is a harmless medicine, and a sucking child may use it without injury. It is best to let the disease continue a few days before the root is used, or else a purge must be taken. If the person is far gone, one spoonful will be enough every hour the first day, and more the next. No meat ought to be used, but ripe fruit is beneficial.

An Indian Recipe.

Of the roots of the low running Blackberry, or Dewberry—made a strong decoction or tea, and let the patient drink three tea cups full, milk warm, and during the operation, drink plentifully of water. It operates as a gentle purge.

POETRY.

The Washington Bonnet,

Respectfully dedicated to the Agricultural Society of New-York, by Samuel Woodworth.

AIR—THE OLD OAKEN BUCKET.

The bard who so often has sung INDEPENDENCE,
And wakened his lyre to the praise of the brave,
Now hails a new spirit among their descendants,
Imparted from heaven that blessing to save,
The delicate white-fingered hands of our lasses
Have opened the era their virtues adorn,
By making alone from American grasses
A delicate bonnet that rivals Leghorn;
A pretty GRASS bonnet, a dear NATIVE bonnet,
The WASHINGTON bonnet that rivals Leghorn.
No foreign intrigues can now disaffect us,
Since we can oppose them with courage and wit,
Our masculine valor has made them respect us,
Our feminine genius will make them submit.
No more shall we send our eagles and dollars,
Our fair from our soil can their persons adorn,
With necklaces, bracelets, and corsets, and collars,
And delicate bonnets that rival Leghorn;
A pretty GRASS bonnet, a dear NATIVE bonnet,
The WASHINGTON bonnet that rivals Leghorn.

Then hail to the arts that secure independence,
And draw our resources from Liberty's soil,
Our national banner that derives new resplendence
From feminine genius and masculine toil.
Our valor shall teach all the world to respect it,
Though some have affected that valor to scorn,
And Amazon damsels have armed to protect it,
With helmets or bonnets that rival Leghorn;
A pretty GRASS bonnet, a dear native bonnet,
The WASHINGTON bonnet that rivals Leghorn.

HOLLIN HALL, January 5th, 1822.

Sir—I will thank you to give the subjoined advertisement, a few insertions in the American Farmer. And oblige, your's respectfully,

GEORGE W. MASON.

Mr. John S. Skinner,
Baltimore.

VALUABLE PROPERTY

For Sale.

The subscriber being desirous of removing to the Western Country, offers for sale, the tract of Land on which he resides, in Fairfax County, Virginia, containing about 740 acres, five miles below Alexandria, and within one mile of Potomack River, in an agreeable neighbourhood—the situation pleasant and remarkably healthy—the land level and well adapted to the production of Indian Corn, Wheat and other small grain. The improvements are a large and commodious dwelling house, two stories high, 54 feet long and 34 feet wide, with four rooms and a passage on a floor; a portico on each front, the full length of the house, and an excellent cellar under the whole house, divided into four rooms—A good kitchen, meat house, dairy, ice house, and every other necessary building; all in good repair, with a well of excellent water—A good garden, apple and peach orchard, and about 40 acres of excellent Timothy meadow, and as much more may be made at a very small expense. Also an Overseer's house, Negro quarters, a granary, corn house, stables, &c. &c. For terms apply to the subscriber, five miles below Alexandria.

GEORGE W. MASON.

January 5th, 1822.

MULES FOR SALE.

For sale a pair of fine young mules, one, 2 years, the other 3 years old last Spring. To save the trouble of enquiry on that point, the price is \$60 each. For any other particulars, enquire of the Editor.

Flax Machines, &c.

HARRISON & TORREY,

At the Agricultural Repository, New-York,

have for sale,

Bundy's new patent Flax Machine, with directions for bleaching the flax,	\$15
If five or more are ordered,	\$12 each
A sample of flax may be seen at the office of the American Farmer, that was dressed in this machine.	
Blailey's Inverted Horse Hoe—invaluable at the south—very light and easy of draught—can be set from 8 to 36 inches,	\$15
Amos' Expanding ditto,	15
Worland's Hand Mill, contained in a box about a foot square, with two set of extra plates	40
Burden's Box Churns	
Angled Harrows, double or single, with patent Teeth,	8 to 20
Beatson's Scarifiers,	15
Ploughs of all kinds—as Freeborn's and Harrison's patent—the Scotch, iron and wood, ditto, from	6 to 40
Bennet's Grass Machine,	1
Patent Corn Shellers, in iron & wood frames, 15 to 20	
Lactometers, Dymometers, &c.	
The Scotch and English Friction Machines, for Threshing with or without horse power, made to order.	
Chaff Cutters, from	3 to 75
And every improved Agricultural Implement.	

Printed every Friday at \$4 per annum, for JOHN S. SKINNER, Editor, by Joseph Robinson, at the N. E. corner of Market and Belvidere-streets, Baltimore, where every description of book and Job Printing is executed—Orders from a distance for Binding, with proper directions, promptly attended to.